

In Response to Raised Bill No. 5286

To the members of the Public Health Committee,

I am here today to advocate that legislation made upon electronic cigarettes is done intelligently and pertaining to facts surrounding the technology. I am sincerely concerned by the wording of this Bill, as it appears to lack understanding and knowledge of what exactly it is legislating on.

The first example of this concern is the term "nicotine yield" which is just completely unheard of in the industry. Nicotine is determined by milligram or percent for example 12mg or 1.2% of nicotine in a container and the bill makes zero mention of this fact.

Pertaining to Section One, the definition of "Electronic Nicotine Delivery System" seems to be an umbrella term for anything at all associated with the technology. Part B, Section 2 addresses the aim to label every component involved in the manufacture of an e-cigarette, but this is overkill, because there are many components to this technology that are a novelty in nature, and thus do not have any need at all for a label. It would be fair to say it would be a waste of resources to require that everything be labeled.

Another requirement that seems excessive is the stipulation that the labels have the huge font size of 17, which dwarfs the font sizes of 6 to 8, typical for over the counter medications, and it's doubly unnecessary because much of the electronic cigarette industry already labels active ingredients. On top of those concerns, this bill suggests banning all imports of any related goods that are not labeled.

Should this pass, it would put a huge financial and bureaucratic burden on small businesses and e-cigarette consumers in Connecticut, so although this legislation is well-intended, it needs some reworking to better protect consumers while still providing opportunity for the Connecticut business community. Therefore I urge you to strongly oppose Bill No. 5286.

And here's why this issue is so important to me on a personal level. I thought I would die a smoker, but the fact is that it's been over 2 years tobacco free, which is nothing short of miraculous for me. The positive changes to my health are too numerous to mention them, and I imagine that there are many other smokers today struggling with their habit and hoping for an easier, softer and healthful route to eventual non-smoking. They too deserve the options that have led me to where I am today. Please give everyone the chance that I have had.

Miss Tanya Jackisch Of Wallingford, CT